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"UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS"

Episode #4.

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11:30 to 12:30 A.M. C.S.T. JANUARY 28, 1932 THURSDAY

Once more, friends, we look in on Forest Ranger Jim Robbins, and his new assistant, Jerry Quick. Jim Robbins, you will remember, is in charge of the Pine Cone ranger district of the National Forest, and is entrusted with the job of protecting and developing resources for the use of the public. That is a big job, as you will realize when you get better acquainted with Jim and Jerry Quick.

For the last few days now, Jerry has been trying his hand at marking national forest timber for cutting. The mature timber was sold to the Winding Creek Lumber Company, and according to the contract of sale, only trees that are designated by the Forest Ranger may be cut,. This is done so that there will always be a new crop of timber coming on.

Today, as we join our ranger friends we find Jim and his assistant just about to leave the timer sale area...

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

JIM: Step up here just a minute, Jerry. I want to show you how the forest looks from the bend here....

JERRY: Yes sir!

JIM: Look at that, young feller. See that sweep of solid timer up one ridge and down the next, just as far as you can see?

JERRY: It's a beautiful view all right, Mr. Robbins.

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JIM: I tell you, boy, I'm mighty fond of this forest of ours. It would hurt me to see any of it burn up as much as if it was my own house a fire. It makes you wonder how there can be anyone in this world so mean or so careless as to set a fire going in the woods. You'd think that being up here in the woods would take the meanness out of anyone, wouldn't you?

JERRY: It sure ought to.

JIM: But it don't always. -- Just last summer I ran across a pretty little doe that some fellow had shot down -- over there north of Aspen Springs.

JERRY: A doe?

JIM: Yes. She was mothering a pair of fawns right at the time she was killed. Now, how anyone can get pleasure out of killing a deer and leaving it to rot is more than I can figure out. It's violating the law of common decency, I say, 'specially when you leave poor little fawns without a mother like that.

JERRY: Did you find out who did it?

JIM: No -- but I've got my personal suspicions. And if I ever find out, I'm sure going to make it hot for the fellow that did it. --- There's a mean sort of a cuss lives down below, that tries to make trouble for us every once in awhile, Jerry. Name's Mike Bundy. You see, Mike thinks he's got a grudge against the government -- he tried to get a claim on some land in the national forest a few years back.

I have been thinking of you very much lately
and wondering how you are getting on.
I hope you are well and happy.
I have been very busy lately but I
will try to write to you more often.
I have been thinking of you very much lately
and wondering how you are getting on.
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1871

I have been thinking of you very much lately
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1872

1873

I have been thinking of you very much lately
and wondering how you are getting on.
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I have been thinking of you very much lately
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I have been thinking of you very much lately
and wondering how you are getting on.
I hope you are well and happy.
I have been very busy lately but I
will try to write to you more often.
I have been thinking of you very much lately
and wondering how you are getting on.
I hope you are well and happy.
I have been very busy lately but I
will try to write to you more often.

1876

1877

JERRY: And didn't get it?

JIM: No; we refused to allow it. He wasn't a genuine homesteader a-tall; all he wanted was to get hold of some good timber that belonged to the public. We figured his scheme out quick enough.

JERRY: And it made him sore, huh?

JIM: Well, he's sort of mean-natured anyhow, I guess. He's even talked around town once or twice about how he was going to plug a bullet into the ranger one of these days.

JERRY: You mean he threatened to shoot you?

JIM: I suppose so. I'm the Ranger.

JERRY: Gee, that sounds bad. They ought to lock him up!

JIM: Don't worry, son. I haven't been shot yet.

JERRY: I guess it would take more than Bundy to scare you, Mr. Robbins.

JIM: You're durned right a lot more. I been up in these woods so long that even if we had a year of two winters again it wouldn't upset me much.

JERRY: Year of two winters what do you mean?

JIM: (chuckles) Boy, didn't you ever hear about the year of two winters? Why, that's famous among the woodsmen, though it did happen a long time ago. You see, it stayed winter all summer, then it got colder. Snowed all over Florida, and glaciers started sprouting up along the equator.

JERRY: (laughing) Now don't kid me, Mr. Robbins!

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JIM: Sure! 'Course I didn't see it, but there's fellows who did, and told their children. Well, that wasn't any worse than the Hind-Side--To-Year.....

JERRY: What was that? (laughs)

JIM: They had summer all winter, and winter all summer that year. Why, palm trees started growing in Alaska in December. One old logger they say started out for camp thinking he was heading north, but the sun was setting in the east and he was really going south all the time, and the first thing he knew he found himself down in Arizona!

(JERRY IS LAUGHING HEARTILY)

JIM: And I guess you heard about the winter of the Blue Snow?

JERRY: No

JIM: Well, that was during the time that Paul Bunyan was in his prime. Suddenly, one night it started to snow and it kept up all night, and all day ... and all day and night until the whole land was covered with snow-drifts, higher'n those trees there. And it was blue -- sky-blue -- just as pretty to look at as the cloudless heavens. And when Paul waked up that first morning after it started, he saw what was happening. But it didn't worry Paul. No-sir. He had plenty of food in his cave, and besides he was thinking. By this time, he had done everything that a logger can do -- and had done it better than anyone else in the world -- so he just lay back in his bunk and kept on thinking. He

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had a great, big pine sapling that he used to scratch his head with .. so he just lay back and went to scratching again. Then, once in awhile, he'd lay the sapling down, and pick up another one that had all the branches stripped off, and the end sharpened. He used this one for a pencil, and made notes on what he was thinking about.

Well sir, lost in thought like that, time just went hurrying by for Paul, and first thing he knew he was almost out of food. So he sat up and took notice of what was happening. "What's this?" he said to himself. And since there wasn't no one around to tell him, why Paul just pulled on his boots -- they was as big as that lillte lake yonder-- he just pulled them on and set out to see what it was all about. And you know what he did?

JERRY: (still laughing) No. What did he do?

JIM: Why, he started north, to see for himself just where all this blue snow was coming from. And so he went north, across the Great Lakes, on through Canada, and kept going and the first thing you know --- bang! He'd run right into the north pole! Yes sir... right into it. And he found out where that snow was coming from, and shut it off.....just shut it off completely. But he wouldn't tell no one -- not a soul --- how he did it, I guess, Jerry, that was the only thing Paul Bunyan ever did keep to himself!

JERRY: Well, it makes a good story anyhow. And you ought to be able to figure out some way for him to do it, Mr. Robbins'.

JIM: Me? No ... no, not me. And besides, if we stood here much longer trying to figure it out, we'd soon be frozen. Come on, we'd better get started back.

JERRY: Yes, I guess we had.

JIM: Well, let's see if this car will be obliging enough to start. She gets kind of ornery in cold weather sometimes

(SOUND OF STARTER)

JERRY: Better choke her a little more.

JIM: Okay. (STARTER) There she goes, right off.

(SOUND OF MOTOR)

JERRY: Behaving good, eh.....?

(SOUND OF MOTOR UP FULL AS CAR STARTS OFF, THEN
FADE DOWN SLIGHTLY FOR DIALOGUE AFTER FEW
SECONDS)

JIM: You brought everything along didn't you, Jerry?

JERRY: Yes sir. I think I have everything.

JIM: Got your marking ax?

JERRY: Gosh, no! I forgot it! If you stop I'll run back and get it, Mr. Robbins.

JIM: Well, now, what do you suppose you're going to mark trees with next time -- your teeth? You remind me of the stories they tell about plumbers having to go back and get their tools all the time.

JERRY: I'll run back and get it.

JIM: Well, you won't have to go back this time. I picked up the ax and put it in the back of the car.

(LAUGHS)

JERRY: You -----? You picked it up? --- Well -----!

(BOTH LAUGH)

(CAR EFFECT UP FULL: JOINED BY MUSIC FOR INTERLUDE:

MUSIC FADES OUT, AND CAR SETTLES DOWN TO

BACKGROUND AGAIN)

JIM: You can smoke now, if you want to, Jerry. There's no law against it here at this time of year.

JERRY: All right, Mr. Robbins, I guess I will.

JIM: But don't let me catch you throwing your cigarette butts out of the car --- even if it is the middle of winter and the ground's all wet.

JERRY: Shucks, I know better than that, Mr. Robbins!

JIM: I never smoke while I'm driving, myself, but I keep an ash receiver in the car in case I have anybody along who does want to smoke. Every automobile ought to have an ash receiver in it, Jerry. And if it's a two-seater it ought to have 'em front and back both.

JERRY: That's true. I guess a lot of people throw cigarettes out of their automobiles without ever stopping to think how dangerous it is.

JIM: That's it, Jerry. People are just thoughtless.

JERRY: Yeah, I suppose they are --- Say, Mr. Robbins, do you know Miss Holloway?

(JIM ROBBINS LAUGHS HEARTILY)

JERRY: What's the matter?

JIM: (still laughing) Well sir! Here we are talking about ash cans in automobiles and that reminds you of Miss Holloway!

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THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 1, 1919

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JERRY: Oh, no sir! No sir! But I was just wondering how long she had been in Winding Creek.

JIM: Were you? Young fellow you'd better keep your mind on your work. But if you must know, Why Miss Halloway's been up here since a year ago last fall. Came here fresh out of teacher's college.

JERRY: How's she getting along with her teaching?

JIM: Say, the kids are crazy about her ! Guess all the folks like her, too ... can't help it when you see the youngsters running to school in the morning to see who'll be the first to bring her an apple. Pretty, isn't she?

JERRY: Why ... er yes-sir, she is!

JIM: I thought you'd agree on that. Look, isn't that car up ahead there stuck in the mud?

JERRY: Looks like it.

JIM: Let's see what we can do for him.

(CAR COMES UP FULL AND STOPS)

JIM: Hell-o there, having -----trouble?

(NO ANSWER)

JERRY: (sotto voice) Doesn't seem anxious for help, does he?

JIM: Stuck in the mud?

BUNDY: (curtly) Yeah! Don't it look like it?

JERRY: Just a minute, we'll see if we can get you out.

BUNDY: I don't need none of your help.

JERRY: We have a rope here .. we could pull you out.

BUNDY: (angry) Listen, young fellow, you stay 'way from that auto!

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JERRY: What tha---(suddenly angry) You needn't be so durned horsey. Thy we'll leave you stuck there for a month, if you say so!

JIM: All right, Jerry. That's enough of that. Come here!

BUNDY: Young smart aleck.

JERRY: (trying to be nonchalant) Let's drive on, Mr. Robbins.

JIM: All right. In just a minute (louder to Bundy) -- Here, tie this rope on. I can pull you out easy. There. Now let me stand up.

(CAR START WHIRLS AT SLIGHT DISTANCE)

(CAR STARTS, SOUND OF RACING MOTOR)

JIM: There she comes. (calls) Can you make it?

BUNDY: (grouchily) Much obliged.

JIM: Don't mention it. -- So long. (CAR PULLS UP AND SPEEDS AWAY)

JERRY: (whispers) Gee, but he's an ornery cuss, isn't he?

JIM: Well, there he goes.

JERRY: Say, Mr. Robbins, why were you so polite to him. Why I'd 'a like to have -----

JIM: Wouldn't do no good, Jerry, to have a row with him. Better keep your temper, Jerry, you'll be needin' it and can't find it when you need it most --- Serving the public -- helping people out -- that's part of our job; even if they don't like it.

JERRY: I wouldn't do anything for a fellow like that!

JIM: (chuckles) Do you know who that was?

JERRY: Who?

JIM: That was the fellow I was telling you about --- Mike Bundy.

JERRY: Mike Bundy? ---- And you let him get away with that stuff?

JIM: Yeah ... I did. Mike and I are gonna have trouble though. Fact is, I'm wondering right now what he was doin' up here today. But when the trouble comes-- Mike'll bring it on himself; he's determined, I guess, and there ain't no way to stop him.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

ANNOUNCER: Well, from what we've seen of Mike Bundy, we'll bet he was up there for no good purpose. We leave Jim Robbins and the rest of our friends, but next week at this time, we shall hear more of their adventures.

Let me remind you of what Ranger Jim said about having ash receivers in your automobiles....Jim says that everyone should have them; and thus there will be a lot less danger of starting a fire by throwing away a lighted cigarette. And the United States Forest Service says that hundreds of fires are caused every year by careless motorists who toss cigarette butts or burning matches out of their cars along the road. The burning tobacco or match may land among dry leaves or grass at the roadside, and the first thing you know, the wind has fanned up a real forest fire. Even if the butt is dropped in the middle of the road, the side swish from the next car may whisk it over to the roadside to start some damage. If you don't have ash receivers in your car, make a mental note now to have them put in --- for both front and rear seats -- And form the habit of using them before the next forest fire season comes along.

And join us again next Thursday for further adventures of these forest Rangers.

The part of Jim Robbins was played by Harvey Hays; that of Mike Bundy by _____; and Arthur Jacobson was Jerry Quick.

BSL/is
January 16, 1932.

